

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 MC-02 OMB-01 TRSE-00 EB-07 DODE-00

NSAE-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-05

IGA-01 AID-05 /082 R

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P 101516Z JUL 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 161979

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:JA, XC

SUBJECT:ARMS FLOWS TO INSRUGENCIES IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

REF: TOKYO 8028

1. YOU MAY PASS THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION TO HASEGAWA IN
RESPONSE TO HIS REQUEST (REFTEL).

2. RE ILLICIT FLOW OF US ARMS, FAIRLY RELIABLE REPORTS
OVER THE YEARS HAVE INDICATED THAT US-MADE ARMS, ALMOST
ENTIRELY SMALL WEAPONS (SUCH AS M-16S), ARE REACHING SUCH
COUNTRIES AS PHILIPPINES, BURMA, MALAYSIA, AND INDONESIA.
EVIDENCE SO FAR IS THAT SUCH TRAFFIC IS STRICTLY A
COMMERCIAL OPERATION WITH PAYMENT REQUIRED IN CASH
(USUALLY DOLLARS) OR IN READILY MARKETABLE COMMODITIES
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E.G. OPIUM, GEMS, ETC. IDEOLOGY APPEARS TO HAVE PLAYED

LITTLE OR NO ROLE IN SUSTAINING THE SMUGGLING OF ARMS FROM INDOCHINA. THERE IS NO EVIDENCE AS YET THAT GOVERNMENTS HAVE BECOME INVOLVED, INCLUDING COMMUNIST AUTHORITIES IN VIETNAM, CAMBODIA OR LAOS.

3. WHILE IMPOSSIBLE ACCURATELY QUANTIFY THIS EQUIPMENT OR GIVE IT EVEN A GENERAL DOLLAR VALUE, WOULD APPEAR THAT

AMOUNTS SMUGGLED TO EACH COUNTRY NOT RPT NOT OF MAJOR PROPORTIONS. NEVERTHELESS, WE RECOGNIZE THAT EVEN INSIGNIFICANT AMOUNTS ASSIST INSURGENTS. HOWEVER, MASSIVE AMOUNTS OF US EQUIPMENT RECENTLY CAPTURED BY NORTH VIETNAMESE AND KHMER ROUGE IN INDOCHINA WOULD HAVE FAR MORE SERIOUS IMPLICATIONS SHOULD EQUIPMENT REACH THE INTERNATIONAL MARKET OR FIND ITS WAY INTO INSURGENT HANDS.

4. OUR ESTIMATES OF THE INSURGENT GROUPS IN ASEAN COUNTRIES IS AS FOLLOWS:

THAILAND: 7-8,000 PERSONNEL IN 3 AREAS: NORTH, NORTHEAST AND SOUTH. INSURGENCY IS TWO FOLD: MAINLY COMMUNIST IN NORTH AND NORTHEAST AND MAINLY MUSLIM-DISSIDENTS IN SOUTH.

PHILIPPINES: 1800-2000 COMMUNIST INSURGENTS IN LUZON AREA, 8-12,000 FULL-TIME MUSLIM INSURGENTS IN SOUTH PHILIPPINES AREA.

SINGAPORE: NO REAL INSURGENCY; COMMUNIST PARTY STRENGTH IS 2,500.

INDONESIA: SMALL NUMBER OF COMMUNIST PARTY MEMEBERS; NO REAL INSURGENCY.

MALAYSIA: 1900-2000 IN THAI BORDER AREA WITH A MIXTURE OF COMMUNIST AND MUSLIM INSURGENTS, WHO CROSS THE BORDER INTO THAILAND. INGERSOLL

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